[12th March 1955

(*d*) why the new building for out-patients has not yet been occupied; and

(*e*) when it will be occupied?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) April 1948.

" (*b*) October 1951.

" (*c*) The construction of additional blocks of buildings has been deferred.

" (*d*) & (*e*) The building is likely to be ready for occupation shortly and it will be occupied then."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" May I know what are the blocks of buildings whose construction has been deferred and whether the Government will try to take it up during this Budget year?"

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" To a number of questions put last year, the Hon. Minister promised that these additional blocks will be completed soon. Now, the Hon. Minister says that it has been deferred. May I know from the Hon. Minister why it was deferred?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" For financial reasons."

* 1283 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state why the out-patient department in the Government Headquarters Hospital, Kozhikode, has not yet begun to function in the new blocks recently constructed?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The building is likely to be ready for occupation shortly. As soon as the building is taken over, the out-patient department of the hospital will function there."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" In view of the fact that a large number of patients are waiting for admission for want of accommodation, and in view of the fact that the construction of the additional building has already been completed, may I know why the Government have not yet taken over the building for use?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The construction of the out-patient's ward has been completed. Electrical installations and other fittings required have to be still provided."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" May I know how much overcrowding there is at present in the Kozhikode hospital? May I also know, if the Hon. Minister has got figures with him, the number of out-patients that attend the hospital?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" As I said before, there is an excess number of patients. We have under consideration the provision of 30 additional beds and also the necessary additional staff for the Women and Children's Hospital."